

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND ACTUAL LIFE.

An Historical Narrative

OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN

PRIVATE INTERESTS AND PUBLIC DUTY,

DURING THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE,

ADDRESSED TO

LORD BROUGHAM.

BY

JOSEPH SAMPSON GAMGEE.



"FORWARD."

C London:

BLACKIE AND SONS,
WARWICK SQUARE, E.

BIRMINGHAM: 43, UPPER TEMPLE STREET.

GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, AND NEW YORK.

—
1857.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

“For it is truth alone I seek, and that will always be welcome to me, when and whencesoever it comes.—JOHN LOCKE.

“Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.—ST. LUKE, xviii, 1.

“A purpose once fixed, and then death or victory.

CONTENTS.

PART I.—HISTORICAL NARRATIVE.

PART II.—EVIDENCE.



ADDRESS TO LORD BROUGHAM,

&c.

MY LORD,

IN soliciting your attention to a narrative of fact, illustrating how seriously private interests, by interfering with public duty, jeopardize in actual life the progress of the doctrines of social science, I feel dispensed from the necessity of apologizing, by a conviction that the course I have adopted is calculated to demonstrate one of the greatest of existing social evils ; this evil more particularly affects the management of hospitals, as homes of the sick and maimed poor, and as schools of medical science. It was adverted to by Sir Benjamin Brodie, in his opening address to the economical section of the Social Science Conference recently assembled in this town, under your Lordship's presidency.

It is a remarkable fact, that while the popular clamour is strong against the system of purchase in the Army—while the public eye most jealously scrutinizes the least token of favoritism on the part of the chief Government functionaries,—practices no other than purchase and nepotism are, with comparative impunity,

allowed to prevail in appointing officers to hospitals—institutions second to none for their influence on the people's material welfare and moral happiness. That comparative impunity is owing to the fact that the evil is by no means universally known : it only wants exposure to be remedied. Too many hospitals are closed boroughs, in which charity is inadequately administered and learning neglected. What can be more absurd in principle than the prevailing practice which allows that any man who subscribes one or two guineas annually to a hospital, should have the right of voting when a medical officer, and a professor of medicine or surgery is to be appointed from a list of candidates ? Necessarily the most active canvasser, the one who has the greatest private interest to pit against the upholders of public duty, has the greatest chances of success ; and even though his claims on merit be really very slight, he may make up the difference, provided his friends have long purses to fill the lists of life governors with the required number of Bank of England notes, as a preliminary to supplying the necessary number of votes. Advocates of social science, this is no fiction ; it is actual life in many English hospitals in 1857. Within the last eleven months the following occurrence took place in one of the London hospitals. An assistant surgeoncy was vacant : no secret was made that it was to go by canvass. The candidates were five. At an advanced stage, one—a very good man, with some interest, but not enough—feeling he had no chance of success, compounded for the next vacancy,

giving over his votes to one who seemed to be doing the best towards the poll, though every one agreed as to the inferiority of his merit. The poll-day came. At the end of the table where the votes were taken, was the secretary, with a huge money-box, placarded in front so that the runners might read, *Here Life Governors are made*. As the purses disgorged, the official wrote down the names, and the young gentleman, with good connections who liked to see him in a nice berth, had the votes. It was reported the coffers profited seven hundred pounds by the inglorious traffic. The sick poor of London may feel the difference, but how can they prove it, and it is no use grumbling before weekly boards. The gentleman and his friends have paid the money—possession is the climax of the law—gainsay it who can.

What, compared to this, is the purchase of an ensigncy in a regiment to have the right of carrying the colors and figuring on parade? I have mentioned one instance,—dozens may be adduced,—the state of things, with modifications in degree, is general throughout the country. The first great exception was established, about thirty years ago, at University College and Hospital, London. But so tenacious are men of patronage, so determined to do what is complacently styled *doing what they like with their own*, that the good example has made very little way. Then again the old system has produced a swarm of mediocrities : what is the use of working if honor can be got without it? To work under com-

petition is a bore—so corrupt practices more and more degenerate sense of moral duty ; nepotism begets ignorance, and the retrogrades smile under this reflection, *It takes a long while to effect reforms.*

The people of Birmingham witnessed a step in advance a few weeks back, made known to the world officially, by the Dean of Faculty of Queen's College, Professor Sands Cox, who gave the cheering note of progress, by announcing open to competition, on the basis of merit, one of the Physiciancies to the Queen's Hospital. The competition was very severe, and resulted to the universal satisfaction of the medical world, in the appointment of Dr. Alexander Fleming, formerly one of the professors and examiners in the Queen's University, Ireland. In the annals of the fourth estate, leaders full of hope recorded the event, and it seemed that in the Birmingham College the right principle was established—the more so, as on the occasion in question, the Principal of the College, in announcing officially that the Council had ratified the Professors' Report on the sole basis of merit without any reference to patronage and personal interest, “ remarked on the honor conferred on the Institution by men of such attainments offering themselves as candidates for the appointment now vacant, which was unattended with popular excitement and the canvassing of friends of either party. The testimonials of the various candidates were referred to the Professors of Queen's College, men eminently fitted to form an opinion as to their value, and who recommend the one they deemed

most qualified for election; and in this instance, although there were only two candidates, and the choice had fallen on Dr. Fleming yet the Board would have been equally proud to have numbered Dr. Glen among their number. The Report was approved, and Dr. Fleming elected to fill the vacant office of Physician to the Queen's Hospital and Professor of Materia Medica in Queen's College."

After the lapse of a few weeks another vacancy was announced at the Queen's Hospital by the Dean; in this instance the post to be filled was that of Hospital Surgeon and Lecturer on Clinical Surgery. The conditions clearly stated in the public advertisement appeared most deliberately planned, so as to ensure award of the prize to the best man. The candidates were numerous; their claims were examined by the assembled Professors, who drew up a long report recommending one gentleman in the strongest terms upon evidence. The Council Committee took no notice of the recommendation, and gave a majority of one vote to a gentleman—whom it would be difficult, without violence to justice, to place higher than fifth in the scale, according to the merits of his competitors. The Senior Physician and the Senior Surgeon—the latter being also the Dean of the College and founder of the Hospital, announced determination to resign their offices; the only one of their junior colleagues present, rose to make a similar declaration, but was forcibly stopped by one of the Members of Council, who suddenly became alive to the painful fact, that a crisis had

occurred in the history of the Institution, the tide of prosperity had ebbed, the question been raised, What principle shall henceforward rule in the Queen's College, PRIVATE INTEREST OR PUBLIC DUTY? shall its officers be appointed as were formerly the cousins of East India Directors to places in the Empire, which their incapacity has brought to the very brink of utter destruction? or, shall the University of central England be ruled in the spirit of the age? which spirit alone is consistent with the steady development of the nation's greatness.

It will not be profitless to analyze the majority of *one* vote, which Mr. West obtained. One of the voters on that side was the Rev. J. C. Miller, D.D., Honorary Canon of Worcester, who, in virtue of his position as Rector of St. Martin's, Birmingham, is a Member of the Council of the Queen's College. Although it might be supposed that the Rev. Dr. would largely avail of such privilege, his presence at the Council Board has been of such extreme rarity, as to give peculiar significance to every occasion on which he has voted. Moreover, Canon Miller's world-wide renown on questions involving the people's welfare is such, as to invite examination of the principles by which his public action seems to be inspired.

It can scarcely be doubted that the most momentous of all public questions at the present crisis in the history of our fatherland, is that which affects the selection of men competent to fill public offices, so as to ensure in the largest measure the one great end—efficient

discharge of public duty. It is equally certain that the best means for securing such efficiency by testing the qualities required, are serious matter for discussion, the object of many discrepancies, the source of much error; so much so, that I remember hearing your Lordship say a few weeks back in the Halls of my Alma Mater—your creation,—that at the present time no word in the English language was so much hacked about and misused, as the monosyllable TEST. As these difficulties have seriously occupied the attention and called forth an enunciation of principle, from the Rev. Dr. Miller, I do not deem it necessary to apologize for bringing his opinion to your Lordship's notice. In the *Birmingham Daily Press* of Friday, the 23rd inst., in the report of the annual meeting of the Society for Building and Endowing Churches in Birmingham, held in the town hall, under the presidency of His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, Dr. Miller is reported to have concluded one of his brilliant and profound speeches, "by urging as one great reason why churches were not filled, the indiscreet patronage, whereby the motto of putting the right man in the right place was disregarded, and the square men were put into round holes. He considered that no fear or favour should stand between the patrons of livings, and their selection of the right incumbent. When they considered how patronage was bestowed in England—how it was devoted to the aggrandizement of relatives, and obtained by those who had the most interest—he did think its importance and responsibility could not be too deeply felt by

those in whose hands it rested." Does the Rev. Canon conceive that he has carried out this principle in the vote he has given for a Surgeon at the Queen's Hospital? Your Lordship and the public can best judge how far he has done so, from the evidence contained in these pages. Of course the deservedly popular Rector of St. Martin's would not apply to the management of hospitals a less philosophical, humane, and charitable law, than to the management of Churches. *A priori*, one would not have supposed that he would waive the right of voting at monthly business meetings of Council, and exercise that right to give a majority of *one*, to a vote for appointing a surgeon to a hospital, against the deliberate and unanimous decision of a Professional Council founded on Medical evidence, and supported by the opinion of a large number of the most distinguished *savans*, of the United Kingdom, of France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States of America. Will Dr. Miller enlighten the scientific world with the principles which, in his opinion, should regulate the appointment of hospital surgeons and clinical professors, so as to ensure the right man in the right place, and exclude the round one from slipping through the square hole, into a place to which he has no right? a slipping through which too often happens, but whenever it does, the cause is always one—disregard for the philosophical and righteous principles enunciated by the Rev. Canon Miller in the Birmingham Town Hall. How far these principles were adhered to in the

preferment of Mr. West may be judged of by the evidence at the close of this pamphlet.

To his sick parishioners in hospital Dr. Miller might use the words which he chose as the text of the eloquently impressive sermon which he preached before the University of Oxford on the afternoon of Act Sunday, July 5th, "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." So spake the prophet Jeremiah (iii, 15), and on that basis the Canon of Worcester cuttingly brought home to the conservatives in the Establishment that "the defective ministerial training of our Universities is a main hindrance to the efficiency of the Church of England." Medical men are also ministers—of the grace of health. Their training too requires to be thoroughly efficient, no less than that of the ministers of spiritual grace. I beg to inform the Rector of St. Martin's, in the same spirit in which I ventured on a recent occasion to address Lord Palmerston, that Medical Reform is no less needed than Church Reform, of which the learned Doctor is so radical an advocate. The philosophy of the Fathers of Medicine no less than that of the Fathers of the Church, has been too much shrouded in mystery, too stintily dealt out to the thirsty after learning. In both professions perfection will only be obtained when full exercise shall be given to the highest attributes of the human intellect, the earthly image of the Divine; and then—with Wisdom will

come Peace, and with Peace—that unspeakable happiness which passeth all understanding.

The Canon Miller cannot but perceive that the intention of giving the Rector of the Parish Church the right to vote at the College Council Board, can have been only one; to ensure the dignity and usefulness of the Church in great *general* questions affecting the moral well-being of the people. It can hardly have been intended that in 1857 the Parish Clergyman, however learned and eloquent in matters of divinity, should have the vote in making hospital surgeons, in opposition to the highest professional authority. In these days, even the Archbishop of Canterbury waives his legal right to make physicians, and leaves that duty to the competent medical authorities.

Another important vote was given for Mr. West, and that by Mr. John Ratcliff, the Mayor of Birmingham. His Worship, whose magnificent liberality is too notorious to need any comment, has announced his intention of again soliciting the suffrages of his townsmen, the next 5th of November. What would be the chances of his reoccupying the magisterial chair, and from it humbly greeting Her Majesty, our Most Gracious Sovereign, on her promised visit to the town, if his constituents voted as he did, in the henceforward remarkable majority of *one* for Mr. West: it is more than probable the public interest would be sacrificed, and another Mr. West would to his own amazement be lifted into the chair. I say to his own amaze-

ment, for it appears on all hands that the friendly party were by no means sanguine of success; it is not the first time that those confident in moral strength have been the losers by too much good faith.

Setting aside all personal claim, on what principle did the Council with the majority of one, pick out Mr. West from the large batch of candidates, placing him above five such men as Hunt, Furneaux Jordan, Lakin, and Moore. Hunt is the very essence of a good surgeon, thirty years of age, has filled numerous offices with distinction, proved himself an excellent operator over a period of several years, and published a series of memoirs on fractures, which for practical value are equalled by few, surpassed by no, contributions to periodical medical literature. Furneaux Jordan's academic career was unusually distinguished; he has held office as a Medical Tutor and Demonstrator of Anatomy, he has made himself practically acquainted with the state of surgery in the great schools of Edinburgh and Paris, and some of his literary contributions exhibit qualities of the first order. Of Lakin, Mr. William Bowman—without exception one of the most reserved and most competent professional judges in the world, speaks in terms of the highest eulogy, and Deputy-Inspectors General Mouat, C.B., and Taylor, C.B., testify to the fact that on the battle-fields of the Crimea, he occupied one of the most responsible positions, giving evidence of the highest moral courage and of consummate operative skill. And again, on what principle is Mr. Moore's career,

the experience he has acquired in Persia, the trial he has endured in India—all to be ignored for a gentleman, aged twenty-four, for three years House Surgeon to the Queen's, with one hundred a year, snug apartment, and good board? What is the use of talking of square men in square holes in the face of such a proceeding as that—Who will work if such is the road to eminence? who can keep up buoyant spirits under such a load of flagrant injustice? But the gentlemen who gave the majority of *one* can never have estimated the probable bearing of their vote, which they seem to have considered *their own*;—if even the possession of broad acres and heaps of gold be a trust subject to conditions, how much more the exercise of a purely moral right?

I am under the necessity of alluding to a report, which has reached me from so many independent quarters that, though I have no positive evidence in proof of it, I cannot regard it as wholly destitute of foundation. An opinion was said to prevail amongst some members of the Council, that if the Professorial recommendation in my favor were adopted, a condition would be appended to it,—the appointment of Mr. Redfern Davies as Assistant-Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital; for making which appointment the Committee of Council did not see sufficient reason. But if the Committee thought, as the event showed, that they had right to reject the only report which came before them in an independent form, their adoption of it would not in any way have prejudiced their right of delibe-

rating on any subsequent separate proposition. It was no secret, it has not been for years, that Dr. Birt Davies has made every effort to fit his son for the performance of the duties of a hospital surgeon: and was it not one of the greatest evidences that could be given in favor of the unprejudiced character of the Professorial report, that it took no cognizance of Mr. Redfern Davies as a candidate for the full Surgeoncy, beyond recognizing him qualified and eligible; although his father has for well-nigh a third of a century been a most indefatigable officer of the Institution, and has additionally conferred lustre upon it as a Coroner and as a borough Magistrate. Individually, under the circumstances, I cannot but feel grateful for and honored by Dr. Birt Davies' vote, almost more than by that of any other of my professional judges, if I except the founder of the Hospital and Dean of the College, Professor Sands Cox.

Assuming that the facts of the case had been fully stated to a stout-hearted mechanic, a representative of the press, and one of the great landed proprietors of the county, it might be supposed that their opinion would be expressed somewhat after this fashion: firstly let the artizan—the sinew of Birmingham's glory—speak. He has laid down the sledge hammer, wiped from his begrimed manly face the down-trickling sweat, and crossed his arms to listen to the facts, after which he remarks: The case seems a hard one; I say, let justice be done. I don't think John Ratcliff, Esq., of Widdrington House, our worthy Mayor, seems to

have managed this business quite as handsomely as he generally does things;—those six young men who tried for the post at the Queen's no doubt, though they are gentleman by learning, have to earn their living, and I dare say some one of them has others depending on him. Besides they all have families who feel for them, and its no use giving pain to people that don't deserve it. If an injustice is done in this case, I tremble for my poor boy. He's a good and clever lad, and he goes to Mr. Miller's Ragged School in Well Lane. I'd lay a wager there's not a boy that's cleaner and does more credit to his mother, and often enough do my Missus and I have the heart-ache, for he's the eldest of seven little ones.—I'm in hopes as he gets on I'll be able to send him to the College, in Bath Row, where he may get the wisdom which Solomon tells us is better than gold; and who knows but that one day he may be trying to be Surgeon to the Queen's. Supposing now he was clever and a tender-hearted fellow withal, and I was dead, and he was trying to help his sisters and a younger brother in the world, why an injustice might break his heart. Moreover we men of Birmingham particularly look for fair-play at the Queen's. Didn't the old Brums some time back give the place nine hundred pounds in penny pieces? It's said Canon Miller has had a hand in this job; if so, I'm sorry for it; for he's too good a man not to have enemies, and his enemies will take advantage of him if he doesn't act up to his principle; there's nothing like sticking to your text;—the right

man in the right place, fair-play for all men:—but of this I'm sure, the Doctor never wronged any man wilfully, and if he on learning all the facts of the case, sees the thing in a new light, he will do his duty by those that are injured. One point in the matter is very strange. The business in dispute was transacted the very week and nearly on the very spot that Lord Brougham and all the great men from all parts were talking of Social Science. Depend upon it, precept will make no way unless example goes hand in hand with it. All I say in conclusion is—fair-play and no favor.

For the fourth estate a student of the law claims right of speech:

Altogether apart from the consideration of persons, it may be well to endeavour to ascertain what right the Committee of Council had wholly to set aside the Professorial recommendation and its grounds, to act in a diametrically opposite manner, without even attempting to justify their adverse vote. The law regulating the election of Professors of Medicine and Surgery, and the Demonstrator of Anatomy, and of the Medical and Surgical Officers of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, is as follows :—

“When any vacancy occurs in any of the above Professorships, or in the Demonstratorship, or in the medical and surgical officers of the Queen's Hospital, the names of the candidates are in the first instance to be referred by the Council to the Professors of Medicine and Surgery, who shall make a special report thereupon to the Council, specifying the names of such candidates as in their

judgment are qualified and eligible, and in their opinion best fitted to fill the vacant Professorship, or medical or surgical officer of the Queen's Hospital or Demonstratorship, specifying the grounds of their recommendation, which shall be entered on the minutes of the Council; and the Council is then to appoint, from the candidates included in such report, the one whom they consider best qualified and most eligible to fill the vacant office."

While it is clear that this law leaves a discretionary margin to the Council, not compelling it to accept the one candidate proposed, it is none the less clear, that the intentions of the framers was, that the best man qualified should be placed in office. It was certainly not contemplated that considerations of professional merit should be wholly set aside. Why, then, was any discretion allowed? Obviously as a governing body, the Council should not be deprived of *all* authority in the appointment of officers to the Institution under its control; and, while a system was organized for competently advising, its framers anticipated that, in the event of that advice not being unanimous, or of some technical irregularity in the proceedings, it might be advisable to invest in the Committee of Council a discretionary power, subject to the general and obvious spirit of the law. That this was the spirit of the law the Council had itself established by numerous precedents, and it had distinctly enunciated its principle on the appointment of Professor Fleming, already alluded to, when, after moving the approval of the Professors' Report, the Principal "remarked on the honor conferred on the Institution by men of such

attainments offering themselves as candidates for the appointment now vacant, which was unattended with popular excitement and the canvassing of friends of either party. The testimonials of the various candidates were referred to the Professors of Queen's College, men eminently fitted to form an opinion as to their value, and who recommend the one they deemed most qualified for election ; and in this instance, although there were only two candidates, and the choice had fallen on Dr. Fleming, yet the Board would have been equally proud to have numbered Dr. Glen among their number. The Report was approved, and Dr. Fleming elected to fill the vacant office of Physician to the Queen's Hospital and joint Professor of *Materia Medica* at Queen's College."

As in the antecedent case, the Professors had recommended eight candidates as qualified and eligible, it may seem the discretionary power allowed to the Council had wide field for exercise ; but, in point of fact, *qualified* implies possessed of a diploma, and *eligible* follows as an almost necessary corollary ; it is quite possible the professional judges may have thought that it would be wholly inadvisable to appoint some of the candidates, though they are legally qualified as surgeons, and legally eligible as such to surgical offices.

Moreover it is fair to argue that, as amongst the candidates were several who had very strong local and personal claims, the Professors, in preferring a gentleman whom they only knew by repute, and in whose

favor they presented a lengthy and most elaborate report, were influenced by the belief that he had unquestionable right to the first place ; and since the Council had published to the world its previous acts, and by the advertisement in this case, that on merit would the decision turn, it is bound to fulfil the agreement with the candidate who has fulfilled all the conditions, by implementing its own law according to its own hitherto undeviating interpretation in practice. That the exceptional course recently pursued is opposed to the meaning of the statute is obvious ; that its effect is to deal a heavy blow to a great principle, cannot be denied ; that that principle fully enjoys the popular favor is equally certain ; and that no person or corporate body can, with impunity in these days, do violence to popular opinion, is a proposition commanding the most unquestionable assent.

It is one of the finest elements in the constitution of the Queen's College in Liberal Birmingham, that from the time of its foundation the nobility and landed gentlemen of the Midland Counties, have taken a most active part in promoting its welfare ; to this great class belongs the third member of the equity court, to whom we have supposed the facts of the case to have been stated. He thus conveys expression of his opinion :—No one has perhaps been more happy than the accomplished Fordyce, in laying down the rule of honor by which the conduct of a gentleman should always be regulated—'tis *but one*—comprehensive, obvious, unmistakeable ; it alone can be followed with

safety, amidst the perilous, the changeable, the dubious, and the partial maxims on either side, that have been devised by self-love, worldly policy, or false refinement. That rule is : Always to act nobly on the basis of pure intentions, so as never to offend deliberately the inward monitor. "My heart shall not reprove me so long as I live." If, as has been stated, the gentleman, who has chanced to have the majority of one, has generously expressed admission that his claims on merit do not entitle him to it, how much would he, at twenty-four years of age, enhance his legitimate prospects by speaking thus : "I will not quibble about the matter, it is too serious, too delicate, if not, indeed, too holy—let right be done, and I shall rejoice in the conquest of truth. I am young. I have certainly suffered no hardships for my profession, as have done Lakin and Moore, in India, Persia, and the Crimea—I have not ransacked libraries, grown pale in dead-houses, traversed, without resting, the countries of Europe, in search of deep, varied, philosophical learning, without distinction of language or of creed. I have not gained more than that good repute for diligence as a student, and moral character as a man. I will not be the instrument, even though the passive one, of an injustice. I will work on, in the hope of acquiring esteem as a labourer in the vineyard of science ; I am happy in the success of right—let right be done." The adoption of such a course is not, I trust, a matter of improbability. In the present condition of society, might it not be said in the present crisis of civilization,

it is of the utmost importance that science should be fostered. Learning is as much a property as land or gold ; unfortunately, it is much less protected by the common law of the land. So much the more is a gentleman bound to follow the straight line of honor, when desertion from it does not admit of punishment in the police court. In the present case the rights of learning do seem jeopardized by an unfortunate collision between two bodies, which has resulted in the accidental gain of a gentleman, who must feel that by his gain others are wronged. The solution is in his own heart. Life is a series of compromises on minor matters, so as to secure the conquest of great principles. In this instance, a great principle is at stake. Let every one jealously protect it from violation. Let the feelings of all parties be considered, and let not the interests of learning and benevolence, be jeopardized by feeling of pique which is not manly, by lack of generosity or any thing else, which is not gentlemanly.

If exception can fairly be taken to the opinion pronounced by the honorable triumvirate, let equity prevail.

A few words, my Lord, in justification of facts and reflections, which I have ventured thus publicly to address you.

I have not money enough to make life governors with,—that is to say, I cannot purchase a hospital appointment; although I have made many friends, my family is not one of influence, and if it were, I should enjoin that no such thing as what is called *influence*,

should be brought to bear in deciding a question which affects the honor of science and the health of the people—of kings and potentates, no less than of artizans and unfortunates. I pray for equity ; and though it appear that the decision of the Council is subject to the co-operation of the whole body of Governors, thereby opportunity being afforded of legal appeal and redress, I should much prefer not owing success to that appeal ; as reversion of the decision by a superior power, might occasion differences of a lasting character among men, whose co-operation and friendly feeling are of the very first importance to the welfare of the institution. The day may come—I verily believe the day will come—when I shall fully justify the reconsideration of the Council's decision,—reconsideration for which I most humbly and heartily pray.

I respectfully invite the Council to consider, that with my fall under its vote, many more men deserving sympathy and encouragement, would have reason to quake.

I am not without hoping that whatever my fate on the present occasion, the endeavours I have made may be conducive to the great cause of public charity, by stimulating enquiry into the administration of hospitals, and particularly into the mode by which officers are appointed to them.

If, as I trust, I am to be the Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, all sacrifice of which I am 'capable shall be light, if the performance of my duty as a surgeon call for it.

I beg it be borne in mind that nine days ago I was a total stranger to Birmingham, and, to my knowledge, I had seen but one of its inhabitants, my competitor and faithful friend, Benjamin Hunt. In the anxious days I have passed in this town, I trust no one amongst the many with whom I have had occasion to converse, has been wounded by any expression which in the heat of contest may have fallen from me; if such have unfortunately been the case, I tender apology more full and public than the involuntary offence.

That in the Queen's College and Hospital I may be allowed to end my life, thinking with Pascal, "*on ne trouve le repos que dans la recherche sincère de la vérité*," and that thereby I may be allowed to put in practice, for the good of men, the motto of the Birmingham Town Arms, "*FORWARD*," is the anxious hope of

MY LORD,
Your grateful and humble Servant,
JOSEPH SAMPSON GAMGEE.

14, Queen's Hotel, Birmingham.

16, Upper Woburn Place, Russell Square.

P.S.—The appended reprint of Mr. West's Testimonials is literally a faithful representation of those he sent into the Council in support of his application. For sake of brevity I have omitted about thirty of those which I had printed for presentation to the Professors and Council; a still greater number are in my possession, but I am quite satisfied to rest my claims on those here reproduced.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

THE Professors in Medicine and Surgery of the Queen's College, at Birmingham, having been requested by the Council to report on the Testimonials of the Candidates for the Office of Surgeon of the Queen's Hospital, specifying the names of such Candidates as in their judgment are qualified and eligible, and in their opinion best fitted to fill the vacant Appointment, specifying the grounds of their recommendation, have to report, that six applications have been received from—

Mr. JOSEPH SAMPSON GAMGEE, Staff Surgeon of the First Class, Principal Medical Officer of the British-Italian Legion during the late War; late Assistant-Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, London, House Surgeon and Ophthalmic Surgeon's Assistant at University College Hospital.

Mr. BENJAMIN HUNT, late House Surgeon of University College Hospital; late Resident Physician's Clinical Assistant at the Hospital for Consumption at Brompton; late House Surgeon to the Kent County Hospital for Diseases of the Eye and Ear; and late Medical Officer of the Queen's Hospital.

Mr. THOMAS FURNEAUX JORDAN, late Resident Surgeon of the Warneford Hospital and Bathing Institution, Leamington, and Junior Anatomical Demonstrator at Queen's College.

Mr. HENRY LAKIN, Surgeon to the General Dispensary ; late Assistant-Surgeon Dreadnought Hospital Ship, Greenwich ; late Assistant-Surgeon Smyrna Hospital and General Hospital before Sebastopol.

Mr. JAMES WILLIAM MOORE, Surgeon in the Bombay Army, Honorable East India Company's Service ; late Resident Medical Officer of the Queen's Hospital.

Mr. JAMES F. WEST, late Resident Medical Officer of the Queen's Hospital.

That after mature and careful consideration of the Testimonials of the respective Candidates, the Professors report that all the Candidates are both qualified and eligible.

That in their judgment, Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee appears the best fitted for the Appointment on the following grounds :

That he was a most distinguished student of University College, London, and obtained, as evidences of his abilities, no less than five Gold Medals in the various sciences of Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, Clinical Medicine, and Clinical Surgery.

That he discharged the responsible duties of Resident House Surgeon at University College Hospital, and also those of the Ophthalmic Surgeon's Assistant to the satisfaction of the Surgical Staff and the Governors at large.

That for a period of two years he availed himself of the vast field of study afforded in the Hospitals, in the Dissecting-Rooms, and in the Museums of the Continent, and obtained such a reputation for industry, ability, and skill, as to warrant the strong testimonials of such men as Baron Larrey, Surgeon to the Emperor

Napoleon, of M. Bonnet, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Hôtel Dieu of Lyons, of Carlo Burci, Professor of Surgery in the University of Pisa, of M. Velpeau, Member of the French Institute, who says, "My personal knowledge of you, the zeal of which you have given proof in our hospitals, your published writings, warrant me in affirming that you have all the intelligence, all the learning, and all the aptitude requisite for an excellent hospital surgeon, and that science will find in you a worthy representative ;" and of many other eminent Surgeons in France and Italy.

That Mr. Gamgee was appointed to organize the Medical Staff, and superintend the Hospitals of one of the British-Foreign Legions in the late war ; the onerous duties of which position were so fulfilled by him, that the Minister of War, the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, His Excellency Sir James Hudson, and others, express their opinions of his public services in high terms.

In addition to the recommendation of the distinguished individuals above referred to, Testimonials are submitted to the Professors in favor of Mr. Gamgee, from many of the most distinguished medical men of this country. One of these from Professor Paget, F.R.S., of London, is thus expressed : "He (Mr. Gamgee) is a gentleman, not only of great natural ability, but of surprizing activity and enterprise. How good a surgeon he is, he has proved by his numerous works, and by the reputation he has gained in every post he has filled ; how able to teach others, the energy and

clearness with which he speaks and writes will abundantly testify; how skilled in extending and improving surgical science, his constant zeal in new and laborious enquiries has long established."

As an Author, Mr. Gamgee is favorably known to the profession, by his Works on Pathological Anatomy, and Clinical Surgery, and On the Treatment of Fractures by the Starched Apparatus, and also by numerous papers on scientific subjects, in medical periodicals.

WILLIAM SANDS COX,
Dean of Faculty.

TESTIMONIALS OF MR. J. F. WEST.

To the Medical Professors and Council of Queen's College, Birmingham.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the honourable post of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. Knowles.

As I have had the honour of holding the responsible position of House Surgeon in that Institution for a period of nearly three years, it would be almost superfluous to urge with undue prominence my claims upon your consideration. I may however be permitted to state, that after completing my studies at one of the largest Metropolitan Hospitals, and obtaining the necessary diplomata for Medical and Surgical practice, I passed the first M.B. examination at the University of London, taking honours in Anatomy and Physiology, and subsequently gained my late appointment in competition with numerous candidates.

The highly flattering Testimonials which I have had the honour of receiving from the Hospital Committee, as well as the medical officers encourage me to believe that I have performed the important duties devolving upon me to their satisfaction.

The wide field presented by the Queen's Hospital has afforded me valuable opportunities for the study and treatment of every form of disease, and through the kind permission of Mr. Knowles I have had the peculiar advantage of making myself practically conversant with Operative Surgery.

Should I have the honour of being again associated with your noble Charity, my utmost endeavours shall be used to uphold its well-earned reputation, and that of the College with which it is connected; and I trust that I shall ever continue to merit the good opinion of those of the Professors who have already spoken so favourably of me, as well as of those eminent men whom I had the privilege of serving under during my career in London, and whose testimony to my fitness for the post I now beg respectfully to submit for your consideration.

I remain,
My Lords and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
JAMES F. WEST.

August 28th, 1857.

At the Weekly Board of the Queen's Hospital, held August 28th, 1857,—Messrs. E. T. COX, J. B. DAVIES, M.D., G. B. KNOWLES, F.L.S., J. BOUCHER, JAMES BUSBY, GEORGE TAYLOR, W. H. OSBORN, S. V. HORTON, F. J. WELCH, and MORRIS BANKS, being present, a letter having been received from Mr. J. F. WEST, resigning his appointment of Resident Medical Officer to the Institution, it was proposed by J. F. WELCH, Esq., seconded by Dr. B. DAVIES, and

Resolved unanimously,—

“That this Board being fully sensible of the valuable services of Mr. West, which have been so ably performed for a period of three years, cannot receive his resignation without expressing the satisfaction they have had in witnessing the way in which his duties have been so diligently and earnestly performed, and they regret very much that this valuable Charity should lose the highly qualified services of a gentleman they so much esteem and value.”

On behalf of the Council,

THOMAS UFFILL,
Chairman.

From JOSEPH HENRY GREEN, Esq., D.C.L., F.R.S., &c. &c.,
President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

To the Medical Committee of Queen's College.

GENTLEMEN,—I have great pleasure in stating that Mr. J. F. West, during the period of his studies at St. Thomas's Hospital, evinced a high degree of ability and most praiseworthy zeal in the acquirement of professional knowledge. He justly earned the good opinion of his teachers by his talents, attainments and conduct; and I have no hesitation in recommending him earnestly to your favourable attention on the present occasion.

Yours very respectfully,

JOSEPH HENRY GREEN.

Hadley, August, 11th, 1857.

From JOHN F. SOUTH, Esq., F.R.C.S., *Senior Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, &c. &c.*

To the Council of Queen's College, Birmingham.

GENTLEMEN,—Understanding that your highly esteemed Surgeon, Mr. Knowles, is about to retire from his official connection with the Queen's Hospital in your town, I take the liberty of recommending to your choice my former pupil, Mr. James F. West.

I almost feel that my recommendation of him must be superfluous, as he has been under your own immediate observation as Resident Medical Officer in your Institution for nearly three years, and as he received about two years since from your medical officers very high testimonials—one of your surgeons stating his “full conviction that an enlarged sphere of action would only serve

Mr. West as the opportunity of increasing usefulness;" another, that he "had every reason to be satisfied with Mr. West's skill and attention to his patients;" and Mr. Knowles himself certifies, "I consider Mr. West has a good practical knowledge of his profession, and is well qualified to enter upon any public medical employment;"—I feel therefore that it is almost unnecessary for me to offer my testimony to Mr. West's fitness for the important appointment he solicits from you; but having witnessed his diligence during his studentship, and being anxious for his advancement, I cannot refrain from expressing my warmest wishes that your selection will fall on him, believing that you will secure thereby a highly efficient surgical officer to your valuable Institution.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN F. SOUTH.

Blackheath Park, August 12th, 1857.

From R. D. GRAINGER, Esq., F.R.S., late Member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c. &c.

Understanding that Mr. James F. West is a candidate for the office of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, I have great pleasure in expressing the high opinion I entertained of the conduct and professional attainments of this gentleman.

Mr. West has enjoyed very favourable opportunities for obtaining scientific and practical knowledge, of which he has fully availed himself. These considerations induce me to state that in my opinion Mr. West is peculiarly qualified to discharge the important duties devolving on the Surgeon of a large Hospital.

R. D. GRAINGER.

Highgate, 15th August, 1857.

From GILBERT MACMURDO, Esq., F.R.S., Member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, late Senior Surgeon to the Moorfields Ophthalmic Hospital, London.

I have known Mr. J. F. West for several years, and in all the relations in which I have known this gentleman, he has earned for himself the respect and esteem of every one who has been acquainted with him; consequently I feel pleasure in bearing my testimony, in conjunction with others of my hospital colleagues, in his favour, and in recommending him *strongly* to the authorities of the Queen's Hospital at Birmingham, for the office of Surgeon to their valuable Charity.

Mr. West is well informed in his profession generally, and he has paid particular attention to ophthalmic surgery. He gained the ophthalmic prize, as well as other honourable distinctions, at our school at St. Thomas's Hospital: likewise he was similarly distinguished at the University of London.

GILBERT MACMURDO.

7, New Broad Street, 14th August, 1857.

From JOHN SIMON, Esq., F.R.S., Medical Officer of the General Board of Health, &c. &c.

Nearly three years ago my knowledge of Mr. West (who had then recently ceased to be a pupil at St. Thomas's Hospital, and had for a year acted as my dresser there) had induced me to form a very favourable opinion of his merits, and to recommend him for the appointment which he eventually obtained, and has since held in the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

From that time, the gentleman under whom he has acted in this Institution, must have been best able to judge of his qualifications for the higher office to which he now aspires; but as I have had much pleasure in reading the very satisfactory testimonials which they recently gave him, I cannot doubt that in Birmingham, as previously in London, Mr. West has shown himself a thoroughly efficient and praiseworthy officer, and has deserved that best professional reward which would be given him by promotion within the establishment to which he is attached.

JOHN SIMON.

Whitehall, August 23rd, 1857.

From JAMES R. BENNETT, Esq., M.D., Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, &c. &c.

Mr. James F. West was well known to me during the period that he was pursuing his studies in London, and I am acquainted with his subsequent career. He is possessed of good abilities, has had excellent opportunities for acquiring a sound knowledge of his profession, and his zealous, persevering pursuit of medical science, as well as his general character and deportment, justify the belief that he would prove well qualified for the office which he now seeks.

It is with great confidence that I beg to recommend him to the Governors of the Queen's College Hospital.

JAMES R. BENNETT, M.D.

15, Finsbury Square, August 13th, 1857.

From R. DUNDAS THOMSON, M.D., F.R.S., Examiner in Chemistry at the University of London, &c.

I have much pleasure in stating that I have been acquainted for several years with Mr. J. F. West, and that I entertain a high opinion of his ability and knowledge of his profession. During his period of study at this Hospital he acquired the good opinion of all his teachers, and distinguished himself in an honourable manner at his examination.

He likewise took a high position at the University of London, when a candidate for the degree of M.B. He is, I believe, very well qualified for the appointment for which he is a candidate.

R. D. THOMSON, M.D., F.R.S.

St. Thomas's Hospital, August 18th, 1857.

From RICHARD BARWELL, Esq., F.R.C.S., *Assistant Surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital, &c.*

To the Council of Queen's College.

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. James F. West, who is seeking the appointment of Honorary Surgeon to your Hospital, was one of the most distinguished pupils at St. Thomas's Hospital during the time that I demonstrated Anatomy there. The prizes and honorary certificates which he as a student obtained, show him to have been both able and industrious, but his knowledge of the subject which I was engaged in teaching is more clearly shown by the honours he obtained at the London University, than by any certificate which I am able to give.

I am, Gentlemen, yours very truly,

RD. BARWELL.

22, Old Burlington Street, 20th August, 1857.

From EDWARD CLAPTON, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.S., *Medical Tutor in St. Thomas's Hospital College.*

I have great pleasure in testifying to the merits and professional qualifications of Mr. James F. West, and can have no hesitation in strongly recommending him as well qualified in every respect for the office of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. During the whole time that Mr. West was a Student at this Hospital, he highly distinguished himself by his talents, unwearied industry, and gentlemanly deportment.

He obtained by competition the appointments of Clinical Clerk and Dresser, and filled them with the highest credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of all.

Although Mr. West lost no opportunity of obtaining a thorough acquaintance with *every branch* of his profession, I should say that he particularly qualified himself for discharging the duties of any post requiring a sound practical knowledge of Surgery.

EDWARD CLAPTON, M.B., F.R.C.S.

St. Thomas's Hospital, 19th August, 1857.

From EDWARD LACY, Esq., F.R.C.S., *late Surgeon to the Stockport Infirmary, &c. &c.*

To the Committee of the Queen's Hospital.

I have great pleasure in recommending to you Mr. West, a Candidate for the Surgeoncy to your Hospital.

You will find him a well educated, steady, industrious and most eligible person for such an office, well up in his profession, whether it be Surgery or Medicine, and altogether apt and intelligent.

I should hesitate much to say this, or to speak thus highly of

him, did I not feel that if he is elected, he will in *every way confirm* my recommendation.

EDWARD LACY, F.R.C.S.

4th September, 1857.

[Testimonials received when Candidate for the Senior House Surgeoncy of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary.]

From E. T. Cox, Esq, Consulting Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital.

MY DEAR SIR,—As I understand you are a candidate for the appointment of House Surgeon to the Liverpool Infirmary, it will be a great gratification to hear of your success. From the time I have had the pleasure of knowing you at the Queen's Hospital (eighteen months) your conduct has been highly gentlemanly, and your professional attainments everything I could wish.

Believe me, dear Sir, ever yours truly,

EDWARD T. COX.

Birmingham, June 14th, 1856.

From WILLIAM SANDS COX, Esq., F.R.S., Senior Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Professor of Surgery in Queen's College, &c. &c.

To the Chairman and Committee of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary.

GENTLEMEN,—Understanding that Mr. West proposes to offer himself as a Candidate for the appointment of Resident Surgeon at your Institution, I have much pleasure in bearing my testimony to his fitness for the post. I have had an opportunity of witnessing the zeal with which he has discharged the duties of a similar office at the Queen's Hospital, and also the gentlemanly kindness and attention which both patients and pupils have experienced at his hands. I should sincerely rejoice to hear of his appointment, in the full conviction that an enlarged sphere of action would only serve him as the opportunity of increasing usefulness.

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM SANDS COX, F.R.S.

Birmingham, May 30th, 1855.

From JOHN BIRT DAVIES, Esq., M.D., Coroner for the Borough of Birmingham, and Senior Physician to the Queen's Hospital.

I hereby certify that Mr. West has held office as Resident Surgeon in the Queen's Hospital, of Birmingham, for the space of a year and seven months, and that, during the whole of that time, Mr. West's general conduct, his attention to his duties, and his professional ability and discretion, have been deserving of the highest praise that I can give them.

In the daily contact of the Hospital, and also as a frequent witness in the Coroner's Court in this Borough, I have always found in Mr. West large observing and descriptive powers, very considerable attainments, and a uniformly gentleman-like tone of feeling.

JOHN BIRT DAVIES, M.D.

Birmingham, May 29th, 1856.

From LANGSTON PARKER, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, and Professor of Clinical Surgery at Queen's College, Birmingham.

Mr. James West has been Resident Medical and Surgical Officer at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, for a period of eighteen months, during which time I had every reason to be satisfied with Mr. West's skill and attention to his patients. I have every reason to believe Mr. West is more than commonly qualified to discharge the duties of a Resident Hospital Surgeon.

LANGSTON PARKER, F.R.C.S.

Birmingham, June 3rd, 1856.

From THOMAS P. HESLOP, Esq., M.D., Physician to the Queen's Hospital, and Professor of Physiology in Queen's College Birmingham.

I beg to certify that Mr. West has been House Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital in this town for eighteen months, having originally obtained that appointment after public advertisement and competition with a large number of candidates. Mr. West has enjoyed the advantages of an excellent education in the metropolis, and signally distinguished himself both as a student and at the first examination for the M.B. degree of the London University.

During the period of his office here, I have had the opportunity of knowing and admiring the zeal and ability with which he has prosecuted Medical and Surgical Science, as well as the diligent attention which has characterized him both in reference to the comfort of the patients, and to the directions of the Medical Officers. When I consider his experience in a public appointment, his excellent character and capacity, and courteous demeanour, I can entertain no doubt that he is eminently qualified to undertake the duties of any similar post.

THOMAS P. HESLOP, M.D.

Birmingham, June 4th, 1856.

From G. B. KNOWLES, Esq., F.R.C.S., Prof. of Bot. and Mat. Med. in Queen's College, and Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital.

I have great pleasure in stating that Mr. James West has been Resident Surgeon of Queen's Hospital upwards of one year and seven months, and has fulfilled the duties of that situation to my entire satisfaction. I consider Mr. West has a good practical knowledge of his profession, and is well qualified to enter upon any public Medical appointment. I may add that his conduct while at Queen's Hospital has been strictly moral, and his deportment always gentlemanly.

G. B. KNOWLES, F.R.C.S.

Birmingham, June 4th, 1846.

From GEORGE FIFE, Esq., M.D., Physician to the Queen's Hospital.

This is to certify that Mr. James West has for more than a year and a half filled the office of House Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital. From the opportunities I have had during that period of estimating his thorough knowledge of his profession, I have no hesitation in saying that he is thoroughly grounded in the theory and practice of Medicine and Surgery. I have also at all times found him most ready and desirous to carry out any measures which I have had occasion to confide to him. It is hardly necessary to say that this last circumstance is of great importance in the Resident of a Public Hospital.

GEORGE FIFE, M.D.

Birmingham, June 3rd, 1856.

From R. H. GOOLDEN, Esq., M.D., Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, London.

Mr. West was one of the most distinguished pupils at St. Thomas's Hospital, and served the offices of Physician's Clinical Clerk and Dresser with very great credit. He has since been engaged as House Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and bears the highest character as a good practical Surgeon.

I have known him for several years, and can confidently recommend him to the Committee of the Liverpool Infirmary, as one who will do them great credit in their vacant office.

He has talent, industry, and perseverance, a good practical knowledge of his profession, is equal to any emergency, and what is very important in any office connected with a Medical School, he has all the conduct and courtesy of a well-bred gentleman.

R. H. GOOLDEN, M.D.

St. Thoman's Hospital, London,
May 31st, 1856.

From REV. W. HUNT, M.A., Chaplain and Head Master of Bancroft's Hospital, and late Chaplain to the Queen's Hospital.

I hereby certify that Mr. West was known to me during part of the time I was Chaplain to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. I had frequent and close opportunities of witnessing the attention and humane deportment of Mr. West towards the patients; he also was a frequent attendant at the Chapel services. All I saw of him confirmed the high opinion we had formed of his character and qualifications before he came amongst us, and, to the best of my belief, he is highly qualified for the office he seeks, both by professional and moral excellence, and by experience in similar duties.

WILLIAM HUNT, M.A.

Bancroft's Hospital, London,
June 4th, 1856.

[Testimonials obtained when Candidate for the House Surgeoncy of the Queen's Hospital.]

From RICHARD BAGGALLAY, Esq., *Treasurer to St. Thomas's Hospital.*

SIR,—I have much pleasure in recommending you to the Governors of the Queen's College Hospital, at Birmingham, for the appointment you are now seeking.

I leave to your medical teachers to speak more fully to your professional qualifications, but, as Treasurer of this Hospital, I am happy to bear my testimony to the high character you have always maintained for gentlemanly conduct during your residence with us; and the position you have always maintained in our public examinations, convinces me that you will be found a valuable officer, should you succeed in obtaining the appointment you are now soliciting.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

R. BAGGALLAY.

St. Thomas's Hospital, October 17th, 1854.

From T. A. BARKER, M.D., Esq., *Senior Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital.*

I have great pleasure in recommending Mr. James West as a gentleman well qualified for the office of House Surgeon to the Queen's College Hospital, Birmingham. Whilst a pupil at St. Thomas's Hospital, Mr. West distinguished himself by diligent attendance in the Medical Wards, and obtained the first prize as Physician's Clinical Clerk. I feel confident he will zealously and efficiently perform the duties of the appointment for which he is a Candidate.

T. A. BARKER.

71, Grosvenor Street, October 18th, 1854.

From SAMUEL SOLLY, Esq., F.R.S., *Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, &c., &c.*

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. James West for above three years, as one of our most attentive and industrious Students.

He has now completed his education at St. Thomas's Hospital, and I can strongly recommend him as a talented Surgeon, thoroughly fitted in every respect to fill the office of House Surgeon to any public Institution in the United Kingdom. His gentlemanly and agreeable manners must please his patients in whatever rank of life they may be.

SAMUEL SOLLY, F.R.S.

81, St. Helen's Place, October 18th, 1854.

From F. LE GROS CLARK, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to and Lecturer on Surgical Anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital.

I have much pleasure in offering Mr. James F. West a testimonial on the occasion of his being a candidate for the office of House Surgeon, or Resident Medical Officer to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

Mr. West was an attentive and well-conducted pupil while studying at St. Thomas's Hospital, and I believe him to possess all the qualifications requisite to fulfil the duties of the post he is seeking, with advantage to the patients under his care, and to the satisfaction of the Council and Medical Staff of the Hospital.

F. LE GROS CLARK.

From CHARLES WALLER, Esq., M.D., Obstetric Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, &c., &c.

From the zeal, perseverance, and ability displayed by Mr. James West, whilst pursuing his studies at St. Thomas's Hospital, I feel much pleasure in recommending him as a gentleman highly qualified to discharge the duties devolving upon the House Surgeon to any public Medical Institution

CHARLES WALLER, M.D.

Finsbury Square,
October 18th, 1854.

From THOMAS B. PEACOCK, Esq., M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Assistant Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, and Physician to the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest.

Mr. James West has been a pupil at St. Thomas's Hospital, and has distinguished himself in several of the classes, and as an attentive Clinical Clerk and Dresser in the Wards.

I believe him to be a fully qualified practitioner, and well fitted for the appointment he is anxious to obtain in the Queen's Hospital.

THOMAS B. PEACOCK, M.D.

20, Finsbury Circus,
October 18th, 1854.

From JOHN SYER BRISTOWE, Esq., M.D., Assistant Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, &c., &c.

To the Committee of Council of Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in stating my belief that Mr. James West is eminently qualified to fill the office of House Surgeon to your valuable Institution. He had the character at St. Thomas's of being a gentlemanly and industrious man; and

in proof of his industry, I may state that he passed his Undergraduate examination at the London University with considerable credit.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. S. BRISTOWE, M.D.

3, St. Thomas's Street, October 18th, 1854.

From SAMUEL GRIFFITH, Esq., M.D., Assistant Obstetric Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, and Physician to the Royal Maternity Charity.

My friend, Mr. West, has for some years been a diligent Student of St. Thomas's Hospital, where he has not only distinguished himself by his assiduity in the acquirement of the theoretical knowledge of his profession, but more especially by close study of disease in the Wards of the Hospital.

I have, therefore, pleasure in strongly recommending Mr. West for the appointment he is now seeking.

SAMUEL GRIFFITH, M.D.

From WILLIAM ADAMS, Esq., F.R.C.S., Assistant Surgeon to the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, and late Demonstrator of Morbid Anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital.

To the Committee of Council of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. James West being a Candidate for the office of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the high qualifications which he possesses for such an office. During his professional studies at St. Thomas's Hospital, he highly distinguished himself in the School, and has also taken honours at the University of London. I can, therefore, most confidently recommend him to your favourable notice, in the conviction that his high scientific acquirements and gentlemanly deportment, will render him a valuable acquisition to your Surgical Staff.

Yours very respectfully,

WILLIAM ADAMS.

5, Henrietta Street, October 17th, 1854.

From JOHN WAKEM, Esq., M.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Queen's Bench Prison, &c., &c.

I have the greatest pleasure in contributing my testimony to the excellent qualities of Mr. J. F. West, whom I have known for several years.

Mr. West was my articted pupil, and up to the present time has been in the habit of assisting me. I believe Mr. West to be a very highly educated Surgeon, and irreproachable in character and habits.

I therefore earnestly recommend him to the Governors of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, as being admirably qualified to fulfil the duties of Resident Medical Officer.

JOHN W. WAKEM, M.R.C.S.

6, London Road, Southwark,
October 18th, 1854.

From R. G. WHITFIELD, Esq., Resident Medical Officer, St. Thomas's Hospital.

To the Governors of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

Having known Mr. James F. West during his attendance at this Hospital, I can speak most confidently of his ability to discharge the duties of House Surgeon to your Hospital.

Mr. West, as a Student, was most diligent and attentive, he always maintained the character of a gentleman.

Whilst a Dresser, which appointment he obtained by merit, he so availed himself of the great opportunities of acquiring a thorough knowledge of Surgery, that I consider him eminently qualified to undertake the duties he now solicits.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. G. WHITFIELD.

St. Thomas's Hospital, 18th October, 1854.

TESTIMONIALS TO MR. J. S. GAMGEE.

TO THE SECRETARY OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.

SIR,

I pray you to lay before the Council of Queen's College the accompanying Testimonials in support of my application for the honor of being appointed to the vacant Surgeony in the Queen's Hospital. With a view to facilitate an estimate of the character and extent of my professional claims, I venture to submit the following statement for the consideration of the Council, and of the Medical Faculty, of Queen's College and Hospital.

In 1844 I entered upon the study of natural philosophy, botany, and materia medica. In 1845, after a tour to some of the chief medical institutions in Europe, I translated into English a pamphlet descriptive of a remarkable pathological specimen which I had the opportunity of examining in Milan. From this date I was engaged in the study of comparative anatomy and pathology, and in 1849 received the fourth certificate of merit in the competitive examination in Human Anatomy and Physiology at University College, London, and a Silver Medal for an Essay on the Anatomy of the Tongue, Larynx, and Pharynx of the Ox. In the same year I published an Essay on the Vitality of the Blood. From 1850 to 1853 I gained five Gold Medals in the following subjects at University College:—Human Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, Clinical Medicine, and Clinical Surgery; during the same period, in University College Hospital, I filled the offices of Dresser, Clinical Clerk, House Surgeon, and Ophthalmic Surgeon-Assistant, and I published various memoirs on Comparative Physiology and Human Surgery; I beg more especially to allude to an Essay on Pyæmia, and to a Clinical Treatise on the Advantages of the Starched Apparatus in the treatment of Fractures and Diseases of Joints.

In the spring of 1853 I left England on a scientific tour of two years. During this period I enjoyed large opportunities for scientific and practical investigation in many of the most noted hospitals,

dissecting rooms, and museums in various parts of Europe. Several memoirs, the result of these investigations, have been published, but the greater part of my researches are still in manuscript. In the autumn of 1854 I became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; was appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, of London; and elected President to the Medical Society of University College. In 1855 I published two Memoirs on Strangulated Hernia, and was revising the proof sheets of a volume of Researches in Pathological Anatomy and Clinical Surgery, when I was honored with Her Majesty's Commission as a Staff-Surgeon of the First Class. So great was the late Mr. Guthrie's renown as an authority in military surgery, that I trust to being excused for directing attention to the fact, that he recommended me to General Percy and His Excellency Sir James Hudson, for the post to which I was called, a few days later, on independent grounds, by the Director-General of the Army and Ordnance Medical Department, with orders to proceed to General Percy's Head-Quarters, to organize the Medical Staff and superintend the Hospitals of one of the British Foreign Legions. I beg to refer to the opinions expressed on my public services, by the Minister of War, by the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, by His Excellency Sir James Hudson, K.C.B., and by my Commanding Officers.

I trust the evidence herewith adduced may be deemed sufficient to prove, that in whatever position I have been placed, I have striven faithfully to accumulate stores of learning, and to devote them, by personal practice and through the medium of the press, to the relief of suffering and to the advancement of science.

I have endeavoured to avail to the fullest of the records of experience accumulated in all ages and by all nations; and firmly impressed with the belief that comparative observation is in medicine, even more than in other sciences, a powerful aid in the advancement of knowledge, it has been the object of my steadfast attention; I reflect with gratitude that my endeavours in this direction have received from the learned no less encouraging signs of approval, than have my efforts to cultivate the special department of operative surgery; and I look forward with firm trust, though with no small anxiety, to the day when I shall have completed an encyclopedic work on comparative pathology, already planned and far advanced in execution, intended to supply a present want, and to minister to the increment of medical philosophy.

Without any desire to overrate the little I have been enabled to accomplish for the promotion of public health, I trust it may be accepted by my judges on the present occasion as a further surety of my resolution to promote the public good.

I am also not without hoping that the efforts I have made to acquire practical knowledge of the state of science throughout

Europe, and to establish personal relations with *savans* of various countries, may be regarded as a qualification for one aspiring to hold the office of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital at Birmingham.

It may not be irrelevant to state that I am, within a few months, thirty years of age.

In the event of being honored with the appointment of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, I shall devote myself with single and earnest purpose to the promotion of its interests, I shall be prepared to teach such departments of surgery in the Queen's College as may be required of me; and I rely on gaining—never to lose—the esteem and friendship of those with whom I hope to be charged to co-operate, in performing the duties of an institution founded to guarantee and advance, in the centre of England, the consolidated interests of science and humanity.

Personally unknown to the Council and Professors of the Queen's College and Hospital, I have ventured to submit this statement of fact to their consideration: if, pending their decision, my presence in Birmingham be deemed desirable, I beg to be informed, that I may comply. I have but to add that it will afford me great pleasure to tender any explanation, or submit to any test, which may be deemed necessary for determining the grounds of the present application, and adjudicating on its comparative merits.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

JOSEPH SAMPSON GAMGEE.

From ANDREW SMITH, M.D., *Director-General of the Army and Ordnance Medical Department.*

Army Medical Department, Oct. 20th, 1856.
15,796.

SIR, . . . In making this communication, I take the opportunity to state that it is the opinion of the Minister of War, as well as my own, that there is every reason to feel highly satisfied with the manner in which you discharged the arduous and highly important duties which were required of you; and it is considered by his Lordship and myself that the efficiency you shewed as Chief of the Medical Staff of the Italian Legion, reflected great credit on yourself, and proved highly advantageous to the public service.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. SMITH, *Director-General.*

Dr Gamgee, &c.

General Orders.

British-Italian Legion, Turin, Feb. 14th, 1856.

The Officer commanding the Legion has great pleasure in availing himself of the opportunity afforded him on the occasion of his recent visit to Novara, to thank Staff-Surgeon Gamgee for the untiring zeal, activity, and professional skill displayed by him in the various arrangements connected with the formation of the Legion in its medical detail.

The successful results achieved, the admirable sanitary state of the Legion under the difficulties experienced, and the happy selection of useful and zealous coadjutors in his department, do him the highest credit.

Lieut.-Col. Read begs that Staff-Surgeon Gamgee will convey to the Officers of the Medical Staff his deep appreciation of their exertions, and his satisfaction at the success which crowns them.

(By order), W. L. GRANT, Lieut.-Colonel,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

To Dr. Gamgee, Chief of the Medical Staff.

(A true copy).

T. BERRINGTON, *Brigade Major.*

Extract from Official Memorandum on appointment of Dr. Gamgee as Deputy Inspector of Hospitals of the British Italian Legion, from his Excellency SIR JAMES HUDSON, C.B., Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Sardinia.

. The Medical Department of this Legion is now in perfect order, and works in a most satisfactory manner; so much so, that the Directors of the Sardinian Hospital at Novara have imitated it in some essential points of ventilation, cooking, and internal economy.

I am happy to be able to add my decided testimony, after inspecting the Hospitals of the Legion at Novara, of the perfect order, cleanliness, and mode of treating the patients which obtain there, all of which are due to Dr. Gamgee.

I should therefore consider that the interests of the public service would be advanced by continuing at the head of the Medical Staff of the Anglo-Italian Legion, the gentleman who has organized the Hospitals of this Legion, and whose conduct and character entitle him to my warmest approval.

(Signed) JAMES HUDSON.

Turin, 22nd February, 1856.

From Brigadier-General the Hon. H. M. PERCY, Aid-de-Camp to Her Majesty the Queen.

Turin, November 5, 1855.

SIR,—I have the greatest possible pleasure in acceding to your wish, respecting a certificate from me relative to your conduct as

Principal Medical Officer of the Legion. I have already reported to the Minister of War my sense of the value of the services you have rendered; and can only add, that I can but express my *utmost* gratification at the zeal, energy, attention, and punctuality, with which you have performed your duties, and the readiness with which you have given me assistance on points which did not come within the sphere of your duties, but which, knowing the want of assistance I have laboured under, you have cheerfully undertaken to aid me in.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

HENRY PERCY,

Brigadier-General, late Commanding B. I. Legion.

Dr. Gamgee, Principal Medical Officer,
British Italian Legion.

Camp de Chalons,
Service de Santé.

Le Médecin en Chef.

Au Quartier Impérial
Le 18 Septembre, 1857.

Monsieur et honoré Confrère,—Excusez-moi d'abord de répondre un peu tard à vos deux lettres, pour l'importante candidature qui vous intéresse en ce moment. J'aurais voulu vous adresser mieux qu'une lettre sur vos travaux, pour vous dire, combien je les apprécie; j'aurais voulu en faire l'objet d'un rapport spécial à la Société de Chirurgie, afin que l'opinion de mes collègues se joignît à la mienne, pour vous être utile; et j'aurais déclaré sans complaisance, mais avec conviction, que vos écrits portent à la foi l'empreinte de l'esprit d'observation, du savoir, du talent, et déjà même de l'expérience.

Puisse le simple témoignage de mon opinion chirurgicale sur vous, contribuer à faire apprécier par vos honorable juges les qualités qui vous distinguent, et peuvent vous faire obtenir la place de Chirurgien au Queen's Hospital Birmingham; vous voulez bien croire, Monsieur et savant confrère, que cette déclaration de ma part pourra servir vos légitimes intérêts; je serais heureux d'apprendre qu'il en ait été ainsi.

Agréez, mon cher Monsieur Gamgee, l'assurance de mes sentimens de considération et de sympathie dévouée.

BARON LARREY.

Chirurgien de l'Empereur,
Chef du Service de Santé du Camp de Chalons.

Monsieur J. Sampson Gamgee.

From ALPHONSE VELPEAU, Member of the French Institute and of the Imperial Academy of Medicine, Professor in the Medical Faculty of Paris, Surgeon to the Hospital of La Charité, &c.

MY DEAR SIR,—My personal knowledge of you, the zeal of which you have given proof in our hospitals, your published writings, warrant me in affirming that you have all the intelligence, all the learning, and all the aptitude, requisite for an excellent hospital surgeon, and that science will find in you a worthy representative.

Truly yours,

VELPEAU.

Paris, 21, Rue de Vernueil, Nov. 18, 1854.

From B. W. RICHARDSON, M D., L.R.C.P., Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, at the Grosvenor Place School of Medicine, and Physician to the Royal Infirmary for Diseases of the Chest.

MY DEAR GAMGEE,—To give a full testimonial of your professional knowledge, industry, and skill, is with me a difficult task; for however strong the will may be, to speak all, the expression is necessarily inadequate.

It is needless for me to repeat what everybody knows, that when the Government of this country wanted a medical officer, for one of their most important services, they selected you: and for once, as if to atone for errors in this respect of well nigh half a century, put the right man in the right place in right good earnest.

Neither is it necessary for me to dwell on your valuable contributions to surgical science. To those who have read your works, commendation from me were useless; while those who have not read them, will find in them all that I would say, first hand and better said, because said not to your praise but by your industry.

In the matter of science then, you have written your own claims—and if, in any competition for Surgical distinction, merit is to be taken, not merely as the outward and verbal, but as the inward and positive test of competency, there can be no doubt of your success. In a personal sense I can bear testimony to your untiring zeal, manly straightforwardness, and unflinching courage, as well as to your great knowledge and extended views in matters relating to the past, the future, and the present day, histories, of Medicine and Surgery.

Confidently referring to your own labors as certain bases of success in any Surgical competition founded truly on merit, I wait the result of your application with none other than these positive though simple anxieties—that by your success the medical scientific world of London will lose one of its best representatives, and I the society of an earnest and honest friend.

I am, dear Gamgee, ever yours,

B. W. RICHARDSON.

12, Hinde Street, July 28. 1857.

From JOHN ERICHSEN, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to University College Hospital, and Professor of Surgery in University College.

I have no hesitation in deliberately stating that I know *no one* in the profession, not already holding such an appointment, who is in every way so highly qualified as Mr. Gamgee for the post of surgeon to a hospital.

My reasons for this opinion are as follows:—firstly, that having been well acquainted with Mr. Gamgee from the commencement of his career as a student, I have noticed the very extraordinary and unfaltering zeal with which he has devoted himself to the study of

his profession, never losing an opportunity of acquiring knowledge, and of investigating for himself the phenomena of disease.

Secondly, the works published by Mr. Gamgee on various surgical subjects, indicate great powers of observation, and much independence and originality of thought.

Thirdly, Mr. Gamgee has filled several important surgical offices, both in this country and abroad, in which he has acquired the habit of discharging duties of the same nature as would devolve upon him if he were appointed surgeon to an hospital.

Looking, therefore, to the tone of Mr. Gamgee's mind, to the value of his published works, to the opportunities of seeing practice he has already enjoyed, and to the promise for the future, I consider him *eminently* qualified for the post he now seeks.

JOHN ERICHSEN.

July 28th, 1857.

From the BARON SEUTIN, Member of the Belgian Senate, Chief Surgeon to the Hospital of St. Pierre at Brussels, &c., &c.

I am pleased to certify that during the month of August last I frequently had the opportunity of receiving Mr. J. S. Gamgee at my clinique. During the whole of his stay in Brussels he continued to give us public proofs of his profound medical and chirurgical knowledge, at the bedside of patients, in the operating theatre, and in conferences which we held with the celebrated Bonnet, Professor of Surgery, in Lyons. Mr. Gamgee has especially devoted himself to the treatment of fractures and a great variety of surgical diseases by the immovable apparatus. The efforts he has made to perfect himself in the treatment of surgical affections, fit him to render the most signal services to science and to humanity. The authorities will make a valuable acquisition in confiding the treatment of their patients to a surgeon so learned and of such promise as Mr. Gamgee.

SEUTIN.

Brussels, Nov. 4th, 1854.

My very honourable and learned *confrère*, it has been a source of sincere pleasure to me to render you the justice you so highly deserve, and for the sake of science and humanity I shall be happy to learn that your endeavours have been crowned with success. I have recognized in you a man of learning and of progress. In all your journeys and visits to hospitals you have accepted what was good, advantageous, and progressive without preconceived ideas. What you desire is to tread the path of progress for the public good. You will attain your end, I predict it. Continue all your efforts, my dear *confrère*. You will surmount great difficulties. The day

will come when you will gather the fruit of your constant solicitude, and your country will be proud of the progress which you shall have caused the art of healing to make.

I pray you to accept my affectionate salutations.

SEUTIN.

Brussels, November 4th, 1854.
To J. S. Gamgee, Esq.

From EDWARD BALLARD, M.D., L.R.C.P., Lecturer on Medicine at the Medical School adjoining St. George's Hospital, Medical Officer of Health for Islington, &c., &c.

MY DEAR SIR,—I can conceive of no testimonial to your ability and entire fitness to occupy the most responsible post open to our profession—so overpowering as the confidence manifested in you by our Government when you were appointed the principal Medical officer of the Italian Legion. My own personal acquaintance with you has been but of short duration, but you have for several years been known to me through your works as a skilful Surgeon, an indefatigable and accurate observer, and as a bold and original thinker. I know, too, the zeal and energy with which you have labored at the bedside, and the practical tact which has rewarded your efforts. You may, in my opinion, fairly lay claim to any position which is considered an advance in professional life; and I should esteem that institution most fortunate which secured for itself the exercise of the talents and industry, which (whatever the subject you have taken in hand) you have ever unequivocally displayed.

Believe me to remain, yours very truly,

EDWARD BALLARD.

42, Myddleton Square, July 27th, 1857.

From DR. FRANCESCO RIZZOLI, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Pontifical University of Bologna.

Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee, of London, anxious to omit nothing which might tend to the increase of his surgical knowledge, has been careless of fatigue, and has spared no sacrifice in the pursuit of truth from every source. For this end he likewise visited Italy. In the most famed cliniques of this country, he was enabled to establish the most careful practical applications, by means of accurate observations and comparisons. In Bologna I had the pleasure of knowing him. His profound judgment, the method and clearness of his ideas, the vastness and solidity of his information, the zeal he manifested in endeavouring to acquire the most thorough knowledge of the actual state of our cliniques, proved to me how great was in him the surgical merit, and how many advantages surgery may expect from him. How great these promise to be, may be inferred from the remarkable faculties with which he is endowed,

no less than from the several extremely meritorious essays he has published. It is therefore to be wished, that, in order that surgery may in the largest possible measure be benefited by Mr. Gamgee, he be intrusted with the most serious and honorable duties,—a position of which he is certainly in every regard meritorious.

DR. FRANCESCO RIZZOLI.

Bologna, November 22, 1854.

From JOSEPH LISTER, ESQ., F.R.C.S., Eng. & Edin., Assistant Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh; Lecturer on Surgery.

Edinburgh, Nov. 3rd, 1856.

MY DEAR GAMGEE,—Although my words can have very little weight when compared with many of the testimonials you have already obtained, yet I gladly comply with your request that I should express the opinion I entertain of your ability as a surgeon. My acquaintance with you dates from an early period of our studentship together at University College, where you were conspicuous for your superior talents, your unequalled faculty of sustained mental labor, and your enthusiastic passion for surgery. These qualities not only obtained for you the highest honors of your college in all subjects bearing upon your darling pursuit, but, combined as they are with high moral worth, commanded universal respect and admiration. Your subsequent career has shown that, while your faculties have been maturing, your zeal for surgery has remained unabated; and your many valuable publications have already obtained for you a high reputation in medical science. At the same time, your turn of mind is peculiarly practical, and all your investigations have a bearing on the improvement of the art you profess. During your house-surgeency at University College Hospital you proved that you were not less skilful than learned; and the public appointments you have since occupied have given you large opportunities for practice. That you are eminently fitted to discharge the duties of an hospital surgeon, and are certain to raise the reputation of any institution which shall be so fortunate as to secure your services, is the firm conviction of

Your very sincere friend,

JOSEPH LISTER.

From DOCTOR CASIMIRRO SPERINO, Surgeon to the Turin Syphilicome, &c.

The large fund of scientific knowledge which Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee has accumulated, and the nobility of his character, will certainly render his career a brilliant one, and very shortly obtain for him one of the highest positions in the London hospitals. I

shall always deem myself fortunate in having had the opportunity, from personal intercourse and perusal of his writings, of becoming intimately acquainted with him.

CASIMIRRO SPERINO.

Turin, November 21st, 1854.

From DR. C. SEDILLOT, *Professor of Clinical Surgery at the Medical Faculty of Strasburg; Surgeon-in-chief of the Military Hospital, Officer of the Legion of Honour, and Corresponding Member of the French Institute.*

I certify that the numerous works of Mr. J. S. Gamgee, and particularly his remarkable memoirs on immovable apparatuses, and on pyohemia have placed him, in the opinion of his professional brethren, amongst the most distinguished men of his profession, and that he is justly considered as one of the young men destined to be the glorious representatives of their country and of science

From DR. FERDINANDO PALASCIANO, *Professor of Clinical Surgery and of Surgical Anatomy.*

Naples, 20th Dec., 1854.

MY DEAR SIR,—You honor me by calling for expression of the opinion I have formed of you.

In the interviews I had with you here, and in various operations in which you assisted me, I learned to appreciate your profound knowledge. I not only deem you worthy of filling the post at the Free Hospital, but I am moreover certain that you will occupy one of the most remarkable positions in surgery that the United Kingdom or the world has to offer.

PALASCIANO.

To J. S. Gamgee, Esq.

From RICHARD L. H. BUTCHER, M.R.I.A., *late Member of the Council; Fellow and Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; Examiner on Surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland; Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in England; Surgeon to Mercers Hospital, and Lecturer on Clinical Surgery, &c., &c.*

From a careful perusal of Mr. Gamgee's work, "Researches in Practical Anatomy and Clinical Surgery," I am deeply impressed with its value.

The reflections and conclusions of this thoughtful surgeon convey forcibly to me the high order of his intellect, and the soundness of his practical deductions generally.

RICHARD L. H. BUTCHER.

Dublin, 19, Lower Fitzwilliam Street.
November 3, 1856.

From CAVALIER RANZI, Professor of Clinical Surgery, and of Operative Surgery in the Royal Hospital of Sta. Maria Nuova, Florence.

I certify that Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee frequented our surgical clinique during several years. Having had numerous occasions to discuss with him on surgical matters, I have always been led to admire his extensive and sound learning, his accurate judgment and rare spirit of observation. All these excellent qualities are confirmed by a perusal of Mr. Gamgee's writings on pathological anatomy, physiology, and clinical surgery. For these reasons I not only consider Mr. Gamgee an able surgeon, but more,—one of those distinguished men who have the power to speed the march of science. All this have I stated for the pure truth, as my firm conviction.

PROF. CAV. ANDREA RANZI.

Florence, 6th November, 1856.

From LUIGI PORTA, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Pavia:

Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee of London has twice visited Pavia since 1851; on both occasions he has frequented the surgical school under my direction, and has made our anatomical and pathological collection a particular object of practical study. Moreover, from my conversations with Mr. Gamgee, and from a perusal of some of his writings, I have been led to esteem him for his talent, learning, and surgical lore; wherefore I believe that by continuing in the career he has undertaken, Mr. Gamgee will do honor to his fatherland.

LUIGI PORTA.

Pavia, 4th December, 1854.

From WILLIAM CADGE, Esq., F.R.C.S., formerly Demonstrator of Anatomy, University College, and Assistant-Surgeon to University College Hospital, London; Assistant-Surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

MY DEAR GAMGEE,—Most willingly do I bear testimony to your aptitude and capacity to fill the office of a hospital surgeon.

Your enthusiastic devotion to surgery, your hitherto successful career, your high literary promise, your acknowledged manual dexterity and neatness in the use of surgical appliances and in the performance of operations, all indicate with certainty your future success and distinction.

I shall rejoice if on the present occasion you secure a field for your energy and talent, and I shall congratulate that hospital which obtains your interest and services.

Believe me yours very faithfully,

WILLIAM CADGE.

Norwich, Nov. 3rd, 1854.

From CAVALIER REGNOLI, Professor of Clinical Surgery, and of Operative Surgery in the Royal Hospital of Sta. Maria Nuova, Florence.

I certify that, from the 1st November, 1851, to the 4th March, 1852, and from May, 1853, to January, 1854, Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee attended my surgical clinique, and assisted at my operations with very rare assiduity, zeal, attention, and profit. During this period Mr. Gamgee always distinguished himself above his fellows for his uncommon desire to learn, and for the large amount of useful information he had acquired; so that, taking into consideration the works he has already published on pathological anatomy and practical surgery, I can, without any fear of being deceived, predict, that he will occupy a distinguished position in science, and become an excellent operating surgeon. Mr. Gamgee is eminently fitted to fill the office of surgeon to any hospital, with honor to himself and usefulness to men.

GIORGIO CAV. REGNOLI.

Florence, October, 1854,

From WALTER HAYLE WALSHE, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of the Principal and Practice of Medicine and of Clinical Medicine in University College; Physician to University College Hospital; Consulting Physician to the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton.

. . . . I do not know a quality of which a great surgeon should be possessed that does not belong to Mr. Gamgee, and of which he has not indeed already (short though his time have been) given public evidence. Deeply versed in general as well as in surgical pathology, thoroughly well-exercised in clinical observation, well read in the history of our science, quick in perception, decided in action, a skilful operator, the possessor of remarkable administrative faculty (as his testimonials obtained at the close of the late war shew), nothing seems wanting to render Mr. Gamgee *the* man for any surgical appointment he might desire to hold. And yet, better than all this are his intellectual qualities—ardent in the search for *facts*, severely logical in their appreciation, systematically hostile to hasty generalization, his mental attributes cannot be better signified than in the words of Pascal (chosen by Mr. Gamgee as the epigraph to his recent work on Clinical Surgery), they are those of a man “qui ne trouve le repos que dans la recherche sincère de la vérité.”

W. H. WALSHE.

October 31st, 1856.

From FRANCIS C. WEBB, M.D., F.S.A., Physician to the Margaret Street Dispensary for Consumption, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence at the School of Medicine adjoining St. George's Hospital.

MY DEAR SIR,—I fear it may be considered presumption in me to offer my testimony in addition to that of the distinguished men

who have recorded the high estimation in which they, in common with the rest of the medical world, hold your labours. I cannot, however, reject the pleasure afforded by an opportunity of expressing how large an amount of gratification and instruction I have derived from a perusal of your writings.

The extent of research, the power of observation, and which is far more rare, of generalization, evidenced in your pathological memoirs, will bear comparison with the most esteemed writings in that branch of science, whilst the practical ability displayed in your surgical works needs no encomium.

I may, perhaps, be permitted to draw attention to the great value of the researches you are pursuing in comparative pathology, as illustrating diseased action in the human subject—a branch of study which has been greatly neglected by English writers. I would refer, in example, to your papers on Calcification and Ossification of the Testes, and on Rupture of the Heart.

In conclusion, allow me to express my conviction that your great experience obtained in English and continental, civil and military hospitals, your striking abilities, your practical bent, and your untiring energy, render you preeminently fit for the office of Surgeon in a large hospital.

I am, dear Sir, most truly yours,

FRANCIS C. WEBB.

August, 1857.

From EDWARD SMITH, M.D., L.L.B., B.A., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

63, Grosvenor Square, August, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,—In answer to your request that I would express my opinion of your merits as a candidate for the office of surgeon to a hospital in which, from early associations, I am much interested, I hasten to state how cordially I should welcome the news of your election.

In reference to your merits as a surgical operator, I have not had the means of forming an estimate; but no one who has known you, or known your writings, or heard your discourses, could doubt that you are a most zealous enquirer after truth, a thoroughly well informed man as to the state of professional knowledge in this and all the countries of Europe, and an instructive and very facile writer and speaker—in a word, one of the best informed and most promising men of your day. I feel assured, moreover, that you have a mind capable not only of knowing and doing that which the best men have known and done, but of striking out new paths of enquiry, and of handing over our profession to the next generation in a more truthful and useful condition than it could claim when you received it.

I am, my dear Sir,

Your sincere well wisher,

EDWARD SMITH.

To Joseph Sampson Gamgee, Esq.

From SIR PHILIP CRAMPTON, BART, Surgeon to Steven's Hospital, Dublin, Professor of Clinical Surgery, Member of the Senate of the University of London, and Queen's University, Ireland; F.R.S., M.R.I.A., Surgeon-General to the Forces, and Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland.

Dublin, August 15th, 1857.

DEAR SIR,—I feel honored by your request that I should give such expression of my opinion of your qualifications for the office of surgeon to a hospital, as I may be led to entertain by the perusal of the memoirs which you have forwarded to my address.

I have carefully perused these memoirs, and entirely concur in the opinion so strongly expressed by the highest surgical authorities in Europe, that together with your public services they afford ample proof of your being eminently qualified to discharge the duties of a hospital surgeon.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your faithful servant,

PHILIP CRAMPTON.

J. S. Gamgee, Esq.

From E. A. PARKES, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Professor of Clinical Medicine in University College, London, Examiner in Medicine to the East India Board.

13, Harley Street, August 13th, 1857.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Gamgee for several years. He is a gentleman of great energy, remarkable perseverance, and untiring industry. He is an author of repute on several surgical subjects, and I am only expressing the general opinion when I say that his professional knowledge indicates that his career will be a very distinguished one.

I consider Mr. Gamgee extremely well adapted for the post for which I understand he is now a candidate, and I believe he will be found to be not only a first-rate surgeon but an able and sound teacher.

Mr. Gamgee has already held some prominent public appointments.

E. A. PARKES.

From WM. ROBERTS, M.D. Lond, Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary and Lunatic Hospital, Lecturer on Physiology at the Manchester School of Medicine.

Having been a fellow-student of Mr. Gamgee, and on terms of intimacy with him for several years, I can speak with confidence of his character and of his attainments.

He has always exhibited an unequalled zeal and diligence in the pursuit of knowledge; and the enterprise and originality he has displayed in the study of surgery, and its practice subsequently,

have obtained for him the respect and admiration of those who knew him best.

His energy, conscientiousness in the discharge of duties, his uncommon ability, and very extensive attainments, will render him an invaluable addition to the surgical staff of any hospital.

WM. ROBERTS.

Manchester, Oct. 30, 1856.

From THOMAS HILLIER, M.D.Lond., L.R.C.P., *Medical Officer of Health, St. Pancras.*

I have great pleasure in acceding to the request of my friend, Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee, by saying what I know of his career whilst we were fellow-students. He was always preeminently distinguished for industry, perseverance, and a resolution to be first in everything that he undertook. His energy and powers of work are unsurpassed by any one of my acquaintance, and in competition with others he has always succeeded. It would be useless for me to refer to his course since the termination of his studentship, as he will give evidence of this from other sources.

I have the highest opinion of his talent, and think that he would prove a most valuable addition to the surgical staff of any hospital.

THOMAS HILLIER.

21, Upper Gower Street, Gordon Square.
Oct. 13th, 1856.

From DR. CARLO BURCI, *Professor of Operative and Clinical Surgery in the University of Pisa.*

Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee is a young man of very brilliant talent, very learned in surgical matters, and passionately devoted to his profession. His published writings give proof of his long and patient studies, and of his uncommon power of penetration into the most difficult questions of our science and art.

CARLO BURCI.

Pisa, 23rd November, 1854.

From RICHARD QUAIN, F.R.S., *Professor of Clinical Surgery in University College, London; Surgeon to University College Hospital; and Consulting Surgeon to the Eye Infirmary.*

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to Mr. Gamgee's ability and professional acquirements. He is possessed of rapid and acute intelligence and untiring industry. He is devoted to his profession. He distinguished himself highly as a student; he has laboured in original researches; he has acquired a large fund of practical knowledge.

I am satisfied that Mr. Gamgee would discharge the duties of surgeon to a public institution with entire efficiency.

RICHARD QUAIN.

32, Cavendish Square, November 3rd, 1854.

From WILLIAM SHARPEY, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in University College, Examiner in Anatomy and Physiology at the University of London, Secretary to the Royal Society.

I have much satisfaction in being able to offer most decided and favourable testimony respecting the general and professional merits of Mr. J. S. Gamgee, who was formerly a pupil of this college. He is a man of excellent parts, with extraordinary capability of active, and yet sustained labor, in any intellectual or practical pursuit to which he devotes himself. After applying with the greatest energy, assiduity, and success to the various branches of medical study at this college and hospital, he spent a long time in various hospitals on the continent, which he found to afford favourable opportunities for advancing his knowledge of pathology and surgery, and brought back with him large acquisitions, both scientific and practical, in those departments. On these grounds, as well as from the administrative ability and professional skill which Mr. Gamgee has evinced, and the experience he has acquired as principal medical officer of the British Italian Legion, and from the credit he has gained by his published writings, I feel assured that, if appointed to the Ophthalmic Hospital, he would contribute powerfully to maintain the reputation and extend the usefulness of that institution.

W. SHARPEY.

University College, 31st October, 1856.

From JAMES SYME, F.R.S.E., Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh.

Although not having the pleasure of being personally acquainted with Mr. Gamgee, I feel no hesitation in expressing the opinion that he is eminently qualified to discharge the surgical duties of a public institution. It is evident from his writings that he possesses excellent talents, together with zealous devotion to the study and practice of his profession. I shall be happy to learn that he is afforded a proper field for the exercise of these qualities, and I entertain no doubt that in the event of being so, he will greatly promote all the interests concerned.

JAMES SYME.

2, Rutland Street, Edinburgh.
November 1st, 1856.

From WILLIAM BRINTON, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Honorary Fellow of King's College, Physician to the Royal Free Hospital, Lecturer on Physiology at St. Thomas's Hospital, &c.

Mr. J. S. Gamgee having asked me to state my opinion of his professional qualifications, I have much pleasure in saying that I believe him to be an excellent practical surgeon, in experience far

in advance of his years, and likely to be an honor to any hospital which may secure his services.

He has other qualifications by no means to be overlooked in any clinical appointment. Those who know the remarkable ability and enthusiasm with which he cultivates scientific surgery, as well as the unusual acquaintance he has taken so much pains to form with whatever is valuable in continental surgery, are justified in expressing a very strong expectation that, with proper opportunities, he would be an excellent teacher of this science.

WILLIAM BRINTON.

From D. DUMBRECK, M.D., C.B., Deputy Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, Prof. Assistant to the Director-General of the Army and Ordnance Department.

August, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,—I had ample opportunities during the time you were employed in the public service to become fully aware of the high qualifications you possess, alike for that position as for any other with analogous functions.

From your energy, talents, and great professional attainments, I consider you eminently suited for the office for which you are a candidate, and I trust that those with whom the election rests will secure your invaluable assistance for the institution of which they are the guardians.

I remain, very truly yours,

D. DUMBRECK.

J. S. Gamgee, Esq.

From M. BONNET, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Hotel-Dieu of Lyons, Member of the Academy of Sciences, &c., &c.

I became acquainted with Mr. Gamgee at the end of last spring, whilst he was visiting the hospitals of this city, and I met him in the month of August at the hospitals of St. Peter and St. John in Brussels. In all our interviews, I was struck with the care and intelligence with which Mr. Gamgee studied disease, modes of operating, and scientific institutions. I have seen few persons so well acquainted as he is with the state of surgery in Europe, and I have no doubt that he will become distinguished in the practice of our art.

BONNET.

Lyons, Nov. 20th, 1854.

From J. HUGHES BENNETT, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Edinburgh.

Though unacquainted with Mr. Gamgee personally, I have long been intimate with his writings. These have impressed me with the belief that practical and scientific surgery have been materially advanced by his writings. Satisfied that it is only on the scientific basis of physiology and pathology, that any branch of medicine can be successfully cultivated, I can cordially recommend Mr. Gamgee

as one well qualified to elevate the reputation of any medical school with which he may be connected. J. HUGHES BENNETT.

Edinburgh, August 12th, 1857.

From RICHARD QUAIN, M.D., F.R.C.P., *Physician to the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest at Brompton.*

The well recognized value of Mr Gamgee's published works, and the appreciation of his great merit testified by the important offices held by him, are surely the most satisfactory testimonials that can be offered of his qualifications for any professional duties which he may be called on to perform. If the expression of personal opinion is in addition to this testimony required, I can but express my conviction that Mr. Gamgee will be found to realize the most favorable anticipations of those on whom depends the selection of able, zealous, and efficient officers for the institution over whose interest they preside.

RICHARD QUAIN.

Harley Street, October, 1856.

From HENRY THOMPSON, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.S., *Honorary Surgeon to the Marylebone Infirmary, Assistant Surgeon to the University College Hospital, &c.*

I have much pleasure in testifying to the great talents and attainments of Mr. Gamgee.

Being well acquainted with him personally, and with his very numerous writings, I can state with confidence that his mental and moral endowments qualify him, in a remarkable degree, to fill a high office in a hospital or medical school.

HENRY THOMPSON.

1857.

From ARCHIBALD BILLING, M.D., A.M., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., *late Senior Physician to the London Hospital, Member of the Senate and Examiner in Medicine of the University of London.*

I feel confidence in stating my opinion of Mr. J. S. Gamgee; his superior education, extensive researches in medical and surgical science, and practical knowledge of his profession render him highly qualified for the duties of hospital surgeon, and instruction of pupils.

ARCHIBALD BILLING.

6, Grosvenor Gate, 6 August, 1857.

From WILLIAM HARGRAVE, M.B., *Fellow and Member of Council, Professor of Surgery Royal College of Surgeons, Surgeon to the City of Dublin Hospital.*

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.
Dublin, August 8th, 1857.

From the careful perusal of the surgical and medical works of Mr. Gamgee, it affords me pleasure to bear my testimony that they exhibit a decided impress of being the result of much careful

observation, patient investigation, and most accurate practical attention to the surgical details described for the relief of disease.

I esteem it no small advantage to his character, as a practical surgeon, his knowledge of comparative anatomy and pathology, which invariably enables the possessor of it to take a more scientific, extensive, and correct view of disease, as it affects man.

From all Mr. Gamgee's professional antecedents, I feel satisfied in stating it as my opinion that he is eminently well qualified to discharge the surgical duties of whatever institution is confided to his care.

WILLIAM HARGRAVE.

From JAMES MILLER, Esq., F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.E., Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen, and to His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, for Scotland; Professor of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh; Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary.

Edinburgh, 29, Charlotte Square, August 24, 1857.

DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in repeating my high opinion of your qualification and character as a surgeon.

I have no doubt whatever of your being in all respects most competent for the office of surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and I most heartily wish you success.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly, JAMES MILLER.

From JOSEPH T. CLOVER, F.R.C.S., late Resident Medical Officer, University College Hospital, Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society.

After having been distinguished as the most successful student of his time, Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee obtained the appointment of house-surgeon to University College Hospital, and was subsequently nominated by the Council of that institution Assistant to Professor Wharton Jones in the Ophthalmic department.

I was a daily witness of Mr. Gamgee's manual dexterity and real surgical talent in performing the duties of these offices. He was kind to his patients, indefatigable as well as skilful in relieving them, and in promoting the real interests of science.

Since that time Mr. Gamgee has travelled extensively, and in the famed ophthalmic schools of Germany made Eye diseases the special object of his inquiries.

During the space of two years, Mr. Gamgee has filled the office of Assistant-surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, and he has recently been entrusted by Her Majesty's Government with a most responsible post, as chief of a divisional medical staff.

Mr. Gamgee's public and private life give evidence of the highest moral principles. I can say truly I have never seen such entire devotion of extraordinary abilities to the noblest objects of our profession.

JOSEPH T. CLOVER.

44, Mortimer Street, Cavendish Square.
1856.

From PRESCOTT HEWETT, Esq., *Professor of Anatomy and Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Assistant-Surgeon to St. George's Hospital.*

I have great pleasure in stating that I believe Mr. Joseph S. Gamgee to be, in every way, admirably well qualified for the appointment of surgeon to a public institution.

His energy, his untiring zeal, his thorough devotion to his profession, the many well-known and scientific and practical works already published by him, assuredly promise that Mr. J. S. Gamgee's career as a surgeon will be a most brilliant one, should he be so fortunate as to be placed in a large hospital.

PRESCOTT HEWETT.

35, Hertford Street, May Fair.
August 26, 1857.

From THOMAS LAYCOCK, M.D., *Physician to the Royal Infirmary and Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh.*

Mr. J. S. Gamgee is known to me by his published researches in Pathological Anatomy and Clinical Surgery, which indicate that Mr. Gamgee, with a philosophical mind and a love of truth for its own sake has great energy of character, and a devotion to Surgery and Surgical science. These are qualities most essential to the formation of a true Surgeon, but more especially of a Surgeon to a public institution, where he will have to teach and advance the science of Surgery as well as practise the art.

I feel satisfied that Mr. Gamgee will warrant any preference that may be given to him over the other candidates for the office of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital at Birmingham, by the zeal and enterprise with which he will perform its duties.

THOMAS LAYCOCK.

Edinburgh, August 28th, 1857.

From T. HERBERT BARKER, Esq., M.D., Lond., F.R.C.S., M.S.A., *late Fellow of Queen's College, Birmingham, &c., &c.*

Bedford, August 27th, 1857.

I have much pleasure in stating my impression of the qualifications of Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee for the appointment of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

A careful perusal of his Prize Essay "On the Advantages of the Starched Apparatus in the Treatment of Fractures and Diseases of Joints," for which the Council of the University College of London awarded the Liston Clinical Medal,—of his "Reflections on Petit's Operation,"—and of his "Researches on Pathological Anatomy and Clinical Surgery,"—has convinced me that Mr. Gamgee holds a place in the very first rank among the most zealous and successful cultivators of the science and art of Surgery of the present day.

His election to the office which he solicits will not only extend his sphere of usefulness and research, but will add to the high renown of the Hospital to which he shall have been appointed.

HERBERT BARKER.

From MAURICE H. COLLIS, Esq., F.R.C.S., M.B., T.C.D., *Surgeon to the Meath Hospital, Lecturer on Surgery to the Dublin Medical School, Examiner in Surgery to the Queen's University in Ireland.*

25, Lower Baggot Street.

Dublin, September, 1857.

DEAR SIR,

I have derived much information of a valuable character from the perusal of your contributions to surgery and pathological anatomy. They testify to an extensive acquaintance with hospital duties, and give evidence of powers of observation, and a readiness to avail yourself of every addition to surgical knowledge and practice, such as must signally qualify you for the post of hospital surgeon.

With wishes for your success,

I remain, faithfully yours,

MAURICE H. COLLIS.

J. S. Gamgee, Esq.

From DR. GABRIEL TAUSSIG, *Physician to His Imperial and Royal Highness The Grand Duke of Tuscany.*

My personal acquaintance with Mr. Joseph Sampson Gamgee, and my knowledge of some of his concise and sterling works, warrant me in pronouncing a confident opinion upon the rare industry and self-sacrifice with which he has prosecuted his medico-chirurgical studies. I believe that when opportunities be offered Mr. Gamgee he will substantially promote the progress of the sciences of medicine and surgery.

GABRIEL TAUSSIG.

Florence, 22nd November, 1854.

From ROBT. D. LYONS, M.B., T.C.D., M.R.I.A., *Professor of Medicine in the Catholic University of Ireland, late Pathologist in Chief to the Army in the Crimea, etc., etc.*

31, Upper Merrion Street,

Dublin, 7th September, 1857.

I have perused with much interest some of the able memoirs of Mr. J. S. Gamgee, and am highly impressed with the large powers of observation and research, the patient enquiries, and original thought of that gentleman, as a scientific medical investigator. I believe that there is reason to anticipate much permanent advantage to science, from his being placed in a position in which his peculiar talents shall have ample scope for exercise. I therefore hope that

he will ere long be placed in some large field of surgical observation. I must not omit to mention Mr. Gamgee's large and extensive acquaintance with the labours of our Continental brethren as likely, in an eminent degree, to give a most beneficial influence to his exertions in the advancement of surgical science in his own country. I am also of opinion that his experience as an administrative officer of high rank in connexion with troops on service, will give great additional value to his public labours in any post of trust he may hereafter fill. I shall, from these several considerations, regard his nomination to a surgical post in a large hospital as a valuable acquisition to science, and as a most welcome addition to the ranks of scientific enquirers.

ROBERT D. LYONS.

From CHARLES MURCHISON, M.D.Edin., M.R.C.P., *Assistant Physician to King's College, and to the London Fever Hospitals; formerly Physician to the British Legation at Turin, and Professor of Chemistry in the Medical College of Calcutta.*

I have not had the pleasure of being long acquainted with Mr. Gamgee, but I consider myself perfectly justified on public grounds, in complying with his request, to add my testimony to his merits and qualifications as a hospital surgeon.

It requires no personal acquaintance with Mr. Gamgee to know that these qualifications are of a very high order. There is perhaps no surgeon living of Mr. Gamgee's standing who is more deeply versed in the literature of his profession, or who has himself contributed more industry or greater talent to its advancement. His numerous published memoirs shew that no department of it has escaped his careful study. Surgical pathology, mechanical surgery, and hygiene, have all been enriched by his admirable and laborious researches.

There are few also who have had greater opportunities than Mr. Gamgee for clinical observation, and for obtaining a practical knowledge of the duties of a surgeon; while the highly meritorious manner in which he discharged the functions of Chief of the Medical Staff of the Italian Legion, during the late war, demonstrates his peculiar aptness for a post of superintendence and responsibility.

My acquaintance with Mr. Gamgee has convinced me, that he combines quickness of perception, great energy and zeal for his profession, with highly gentlemanly manners; and I have therefore great pleasure and confidence in recommending him as most highly qualified for the appointment of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

CHARLES MURCHISON.

31, Sackville Street, W.
Sept. 8, 1857.

From ANDREW CLARK, M.D., L.R.C.P., *Assistant-Physician and Lecturer on Pathological Histology, London Hospital; Assistant-Physician, London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, &c.*

I have discussed important subjects with Mr. Gamgee, and listened to his address to learned societies. I have read several of his published works, and heard expressed the opinions entertained of him, by others whose judgment is of greater value than my own. I think I have acquired through these means trustworthy knowledge of Mr. Gamgee's natural abilities, of the tone and tendencies of his mind, and of his professional position and promise; and, as the occasion demands, I have pleasure in giving to such knowledge expression.

I believe that Mr. Gamgee is endowed with great natural abilities which he has carefully cultivated and rigorously disciplined; that he is eager, resolute, and untiring in his search for truth; that he is an acute observer; a deep, clear, fresh, and fertile thinker; a close, methodical reasoner; and a ready and fearless speaker and writer.

Mr. Gamgee's contributions to Pathological and Clinical Surgery display an intimate acquaintance with the literature of surgery, a thorough appreciation of the spirit and tendencies of modern research, a candid and genial acknowledgment of the works of others, signs of extended experience and prolonged and patient work, originality of thought, and maturity of judgment.

I have heard too from high authority that at the bedside and in the theatre Mr. Gamgee possesses remarkable skill; that he is quick and happy in his conceptions, and prompt and effective in their execution; and that he has given evidence of being a safe and dexterous operator.

Mr. Gamgee then appears to have inherited or acquired the qualities of body and mind needful to the development of a good surgeon and a good teacher, and I have no doubt that if a favorable field is opened to him for the exercise of his abilities the result will tend to the advancement of knowledge and the good of mankind.

ANDREW CLARK, M.D.

23, Montague Place, Russell Square.

From SAMUEL D. GROSS, Esq., M.D., *Professor of Surgery in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, Co-Editor of the North-American Medico-Chirurgical Review.*

Joseph Samson Gamgee, Esq., of London, desires me to express my opinion of his qualifications for the office of Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, of Birmingham, England, I comply with his request with much pleasure, although I have not the honor of knowing him personally.

I have been acquainted with Mr. Gamgee's writings for some time past, and have no hesitation in saying that they exhibit a high order of intellect, combined with great power of observation, accuracy of research, and thorough knowledge of anything which he touches. His professional zeal seems to be unbounded. His recent inquiries into "Cattle Plague and Diseased Meat, and his "Contribution to Comparative Pathology" are indicative of the ablest philanthropy, and cannot fail to lead to the greatest public benefit, not only as it relates to Great Britain, but as it respects the larger towns and cities of Christendom. His works on the Starched Bandage in the Treatment of Fractures, Petit's Operation for Hernia, and Clinical Surgery, shew that Mr. Gamgee is a careful inquirer after truth, and that he possesses an intimate acquaintance with the practical details of his profession. It is in vain to suppose that such a man is not eminently qualified for the duties of the office to which he aspires; I am not informed as to Mr. Gamgee's age, but take it for granted that he is still a young man. However this may be, it requires no prophecy to predict that a surgeon of such talents, learning, industry, perseverance, and ambition, as he undoubtedly possesses, is destined to attain the highest possible rank in British Surgery.

S. D. GROSS.

Jefferson Medical College.
Philadelphia, Aug. 23, 1857.

From JAMES PAGET, ESQ., F.R.S., Assistant Surgeon and Lecturer on Physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, late Professor of Anatomy and Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

I know no one better qualified than M. Gamgee to be Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital at Birmingham. He is a gentleman not only of great natural ability, but of surprising activity and enterprise. How good a surgeon he is, he has proved by numerous works, and by the reputation he has gained in every post he has filled; how able to teach others, the energy and clearness with which he speaks and writes will abundantly testify; how skilled in extending and improving surgical science, his constant zeal in new and laborious inquiries has long established. On all these points I can speak of my own knowledge, and the Testimonials which Mr. Gamgee received, after acting as Chief of the Surgical Staff in the British-Italian Legion, supply ample evidence that he is a good man of business as well as an admirable surgeon. His election to the Surgeoncy of the Queen's Hospital would bring great credit to that Institution.

JAMES PAGET.

August 24, 1857.